

# **T**he Copy of a Letter

Describing the wonderful  
woorde of God in deliuering a  
Mayden within the City of Che-  
ster, from an horrible kinde of  
torment and sicknes

16. of february

1564.

In England thou beheld a fact most rare,  
Shewd forth by God in this thy nation. land  
Withe by gods woord thou setst so lytle care.  
G. D. God I say, begins to stretch his hande.  
As in this booke thou mayest wel vnderstand.  
A Mayd but young, late with great ill possed  
But now by God she is agayne relest.

**I**mprinted at London by  
John Wodely, dwelling in litle  
Britayne streete, beyonde Al-  
dersgate. 23. of March.

1564.



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**T**o his very

friend Maister J. D.

**A**fter hartly salutations,  
letting al other matters  
passe, these chiefly are to sig-  
nifye unto you: That here  
of late hath hapned a won-  
derful cure of a Mayd with  
in this Citie, wrought by  
Gods power in his faithfull  
Minister & Preacher of Je-  
sus Christ, Maister Lane,  
to the auancement of Gods  
glozy, and to the great mar-  
ueiling of all those inhabi-  
ting in these partes. And  
least the same should be mis-  
reported, or the wicked suf-

A. ii.

fred

To his friend. J.D.  
fred to wrest thinges, to abuse Gods Preachers, & for that the thyng is so rare & notable that it shoulde not be kept from the posteritye, I haue therfore set you the whole tru discourse therof, described with the hande of Syr Wylliam Caluerley knight, Richard Hurleston Esquire, and myne own. I could haue had euerye man here to haue done the lyke, but cōsidering we haue had good prose the one with the other, I thought this shall suffice, praying you to put the same in print.

from the City of Chester the. xv. of  
March. 1564. Your friend J.f.



19  
**T**he copy of a letter describing the wonderful worke of God, in deliuering a Maiden within the City of Chester, from an horrible kinde of torment and sickenes, 15. of february. Anno. 1564.

**H**aving receiued your letter, & therby vnderstanding alwel what byrte hath lately happened in your partes, concerning the deliuey of a womā here within the City of Chester, from a most monstrous and horrible kynde of torment and disease, as also howe desirous you are to learn the truth therof: I am contented in gratefying this your request, to signifye herein as is for truth known and accepted. The storye therfore was thys:

Anne Mylner a Mayden of the age of .xviii. yeres, daughter to R<sup>o</sup>. Dulphe Mylner, and broughte vp  
A.iii. in her

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in her fathers house , wythin the  
bridgestrete of the same City, wēt  
the .xviii. daye of October last, to  
bring her fathers Kyne into the  
fieldes. And at her retorne, com-  
ming in the high way neare to the  
City, was todaylye taken wyth  
great feare, and thoughte that she  
saw a whyte thing compassing her  
round about, and so amased, came  
to her fathers house, & in the nexte  
mornynge felt her selfe greued, & be-  
ry soze in al the partes of her body,  
which so increased, that thereupon  
she was enforced to keepe her bed,  
beyng berye sicke. And during the  
space of fyue dayes then next ensu-  
ing, did not take anye kynde of bo-  
dely sustenance, as her parentes  
hath sundry tymes declared. She  
had her fyt and traunce almost frō  
houre to houre, and had nener a-  
boue thre houres rest in the day &  
night

of Gods wonderful working.

night. Neyther did eate during the  
time of her sycknes, but once in ech  
xiiii. houres, and then most com-  
monly a litle quantitie of breade  
and cheese, which notwithstanding  
was done with wonderfull snat-  
ching and rashnes.

The maner of her disease and  
sycknes was suche ( as here after,  
touching the time of her cure, shall  
be more perticularly described) that  
vnto her out of al partes of the ci-  
tye, repayre of verrye manie was  
made. Mea, incommuche that after  
Maister John Pierce, one of the  
Canons of the Cathedra l church  
of Chester, and Reader of the Di-  
dinity Lecture there, with diuers  
persons of reputacion had sene the  
Mayden, he with his Auditorye in  
December last, at the ende of hys  
Lecture, kneeling vpon their knees  
made speciall prayers vnto God,

A.iiii.

for



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for her deliuerance.

After this it chaunced Maister  
John Lane, late fellow of Christs  
Colledge in the Uniuersity of Cam-  
bridge, & now a famous and godly  
preacher of the Gospell of Iesus  
Christ, within the County of Che-  
ster, preaching at Torperley, at the  
request of Raufe Done Esquier, a-  
bout the .xxi. of Januarye last, met  
ther with two men of the sayd Ci-  
ty, the one being a nere neyghbour  
to this woeful woman: who then a-  
mong other talke, demaunded of  
Maister Lane, whether ther were  
not some possessed wyth spirits as  
in times past, and for confirmation  
hereof spake of the sayd Hayden,  
& alledged the horryblenes of her  
torment to be suche, at the time of  
her traunce, that it could argue no-  
thing els, but that she was posses-  
sed with some spirite. And further  
sayd,



of Gods wonderful working.

21  
said, that he had remained in that  
miserable plight. xv. or. xvi. weekes,  
and (as I suppose, having heard  
howe it is well knowne to diuers  
credible persons in these partes,  
what rare and singular remedies  
god hath wrought by M. Lane, in  
some that sustained of late no small  
decay of minde and memory, or els  
bring of that religion, as in these  
dayes seeke myracles to confirme  
Gods woorde ) desyred him at his  
next coming to the City of Che-  
ster, to see the tormented Maye-  
den, and they would bring him vnto  
her.

Maister Lane then condescen-  
ding to their request, & at his next  
repayre vnto the sayd City, lodged  
in the house of Syr William Cal-  
uerley Knight, wheron Friday be-  
ing the. xvi. of Februarie laste (at  
equich tyme the Masse was bloden  
in

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In Chester) met agayne by occasion  
with the sayd two men: who after  
they had put hym in remembrance  
of hys promise, & had disclosed the  
maner of the Maydens torment to  
Syr William Caluerley, Syr Wyl-  
liam Sneyd knightes, and my La-  
dye Caluerley, with diuers other  
then desirous to see the Mayden,  
went al together, and brought mas-  
ter Lane vnto the sayd Wylners  
house (to see the Mayden, and the  
to hym vnknown) about two of  
the clocke in the after noone of the  
same .xvi. day of february, & there  
finding the Mayden in her traunce  
after her accustomed maner, lying  
in a bed within the haule. her eyes  
halfe shut, halfe open, looking as  
she had bene agast, neuer mouyng  
either eye or eye lpd, her teeth some-  
thing open, with her tounge doub-  
lyng betwene, her face somewhat  
red,

of Gods wonderful working.

red, her head as heauy as leade to  
lift at, she lay til as a stone, and fee  
ling her pulce, it beat with as good  
measure, as if she had bene in pers  
fite health. And in this sort behol  
ding her, almost during the fourth  
part of an houre, her bellye began  
to moue, swelling bp & down, some  
time beneath her chest, sometyne  
bp to the throte, in suche vehemenc  
cy, that a man would haue thought  
she would haue burst. Then soden  
ly she lifteth her self bp in her bed,  
bending backwards in such order,  
that almost her head and fete met,  
falling downe somtyme on the one  
syde, somtyme on the other, but ry  
syng againe so sodenly, that the be  
holders could not imagine howe it  
might bee possible so quicklye she  
coude without ayde of hande, cast  
her selfe (her belly being bpwarde)  
into the fourine of a hoope.

Maister



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Maiſter Lane demaunded of  
her that kepte this cruell handled  
creature, whether ſhee coulde not  
keepe her do vne. Who answered  
no, and ſayd that ſhe had once try-  
ed it, and then was almoſt caſt into  
the fyre. Then deſired he that ſhe  
woulde permitte him to aſſay if  
ſhee coulde holde this dolefull wo-  
man do vne. Shee aunſwered  
yea, but yet ſayd it woulde not pre-  
uaile. W<sup>h</sup> ſaid Maiſter Lane, by  
the grace of God it may preuaile.  
And therupon after that this piti-  
ful Mayde had liſted her ſelf. 4. or  
v. times in ſuch wonderfull maner  
as before is noted, ſhee tooke her in  
hād, & with much ado pluckt down  
her feete, and wyth more ado kept  
them do vne, holdinge her handes,  
ſyttiſg vpon her legs, in whom he  
found ſuch ſtrength and vehement  
panges, that he was fully perſwa-  
ded



And she was possessed.

The people present, seeing him  
so to continue with her, and her  
paines encrease, some thought best  
he should let her alone, saying that  
it would haue the course. Whom  
maister Lane desired to be quyet,  
and let God worke, willing them  
to pray to God for her, for as muche  
as in him onely consisteth her deli-  
uerance from that payne, and that  
god was as strong as euer he was.  
And when she was in the beheimēt  
panges the beholders called vpon  
god for her, maister Lane secretly  
sayd the fifty Psalm, & oftē desired  
God, through the bloud of his sōne  
Jesus Christ, to ease the Maiden,  
not doubting of his mercede in that  
behalfe.

And when he had thus strided  
with her the space of two hōures,  
that the droppe trickled downe hys  
face,

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face, he had thought to haue commended her vnto God: but then againe it came to mynde to tary the end, and so began a freſhe to ſtrive with her, euer ſecretly praying & calling vpo the bloud of Chriſt, & whe her belly was preſſed downe w as much weight & ſtrength as could be, by thoſe þ wer preſent, ſhe ſtryued more the before, and diuers times with the vehement ſwelling of her bellye, ſhe was verie like to haue throwne them ouer, that ſo helde downe her body.

At the laſt Maſter Lane called for vinger, wherat the ſtanders by marueiled, ſaying, that þ thing with much more had bene often tymes attempted, but to no purpoſe. Notwithſtanding he ceaſed not to call ſyll for it, ſaying, that God might do that then, which he did not before, and ſo receiued vinger

of Gods wonderful working.

24  
get, put it into his mouth & blew  
it into the Maydes nostrils, where  
at she cryed a Lady, Lady. He the  
willed her to cal vpon God, and the  
bloud of Christ, & in these doinges  
she being astonied, he called againe  
for more viniger. Wherat she cried:  
No, no, no more for Gods sake.

The maister Lane willed her to  
speake & say after him, & so he & all  
the present, said the Lords prayer  
& Te deum, she saying after them.

After this her deliuerance, she  
then continually called vpon God,  
and by the appointment of maister  
Lane, he had her clothes put on, &  
meate brought, wherof she did eat  
a little. This done, maister Lane  
willed to try whether she could go.  
Whereunto, albeit that those then  
present answered that it was not  
possible, for that she had not gone  
in al the tyme of, xlii. weekes then  
in



The copy of a letter

last past, yet master Lane affirmed  
that the same God which gaue her  
speche, could geue her strength also  
to go: and so depatting the place,  
vntill the women had gotten on  
her hosen, and then comming in a-  
gaine, wyl ed her in the name of  
God to come to him, standing in  
th other syde of the house, whych  
she did. And thereupon after talke  
had wyth her of the maner of her  
taking, & admonishing her to haue  
a stedfast faith in Christ, and to oc-  
cupy her selfe in prayer, left her.

My Lady Caluerley, maistres  
Grauenor, wyfe to John Graue-  
nor, with diuers other credible per-  
sons wer present, during such time  
as mayster Lane was wyth the  
mayden, and are eye wytnewes to  
these his doinges.

The next day following, may-  
ster Lane preached at saynt Ma-  
ries,



of Gods wonderful working.

ries within the sayde Citye, before  
John Throgmarton Esquier, the  
Quenes maiesties high Justice in  
the Countye of Chester, at whych  
sermon the late recovered Maiden  
was present.

Upon this so wonderful a cure  
great talke was had in eche com-  
pany within the City, that therup-  
on the Maiden was not onelye  
brought vnto the said Justice, and  
maister Lane afterwarde bypon  
earnest request by some of hys frien-  
des, halfe constrayned, dyd wyte  
hys whole doinges therein: but al-  
so maister Rogers, Archdeacon of  
Chester, in his sermon made in the  
Cathedral Church of Chester, the  
iiii of this instant month of March,  
before the Maier of the Citye, the  
Bishops of Chester and of Saynt  
Asaphs, with a great multitude  
of the Citizens besides, hauing oc-

B.i. cation

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ration offered by the wordes of the  
then present Gospel, touched thys  
fact: Alledging that what so euer  
was the originall cause of so great  
and straunge a discaise, yet was the  
cure wonderfull, and wrought by  
God, either to the great commodi-  
ty, or els for the great plague of the  
City of Chester, and the countrey  
adioyning. The Mayden remainy-  
neth at this presēt (prayed be god)  
in perfitt good health and lyking.

Thus truly, and as briefly as I  
myght, you haue the effect of your  
request. Writte at the City of Che-  
ster, the viii. of March. An. 1564.

The names of the wytnesses here-  
of, which also dyd set to their  
handes.

Sir William Caluerley knight,  
Richard Hurleston Esquier.  
John Fisher Gentleman.

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